

A Photographic History of the Smith Family

Volume 3, Album 1

Matelena & Southard

This is the third volume of photograph “albums” tracing the Smith family of Trenton, New Jersey. The 11 albums of the first volume detailed the paternal side of the family focusing on the lives of Anna Maria Kutarnia and Joseph John Smith who settled in Trenton in 1928. The 7 albums of the second volume followed the family of Valentine “Billy” Smith from Trenton with his wife Alberta to Florida with wives Dale and Joan. The pictorial story of the family continues with the third volume which reveals the maternal side of the family through photographs.

Album	Subject	Decades
1	Italians	1780 – 1990
2	Italian-Americans	1890 – 1940
3	Old World English, Irish, and Dutch	1320 – 1670
4	West Meets East	1640 – 1960
5	Dorothy R. Southard & Albert J. Matelena	1896 – 1980

A Photographic History

of the

Smith Family

Volume 1: Anna Marie Kutarnia & Joseph John Smith

Album 1	The road to Trenton	1886 – 1927
Album 2	Pre-war years in Trenton	1927 – 1939
Album 3	Trenton Central High School Yearbook	1931 – 1942
Album 4	Weddings	1937 – 1948
Album 5	Serving the country	1941 – 1945
Album 6	Trenton	1940 – 1959
Album 7	Christmas Greetings	1941 – 1960
Album 8	Moving on from Trenton	1960 – 1989
Album 9	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1987
Album 10	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1995
Album 11	The next generation	1990 – 2019

Volume 2: Albert Jean Matelena & Valentine William Smith

Album 1	Saint Mary's Cathedral, Trenton to Hamilton	1950s
Album 2	The suburban dream in DeCou Village	1960s
Album 3	Formal portraits and school photos	1961 – 2020
Album 4	Hamilton Township	1970s
Album 5	Jupiter, Florida	1980s
Album 6	The next hundred years begins	1990s
Album 7	The Next Generation	21 st century

Volume 3: Dorothy Ruth Southard & Albert Joseph Matelena

Album 1	Italians	1780 – 1990
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Piedimonte Matese, formerly Piedimonte d'Alife

This is the town in the Campania region north of Naples that the *Maddalena* family called home since the 16th century and probably earlier. While living there the surname was spelled *Maddalena* and meant *repentant sinner*, a reference to the Biblical personage of Mary Magdalene. The original spelling *Matelena* makes its earliest appearance after the family moved from Manhattan to Trenton in the first decade of the 20th century. These old photographs were obtained from a local photography group.

Via San Rocco, named after the Church seen in this photo.



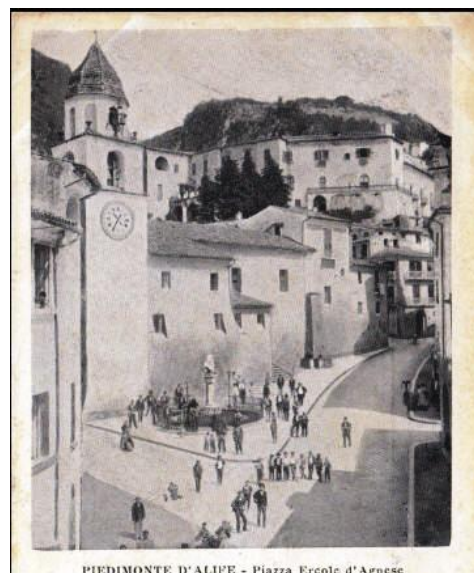
This view is from via San Rocco looking north with the Church of San Giovanni perched above. This was the nucleus of 1 of 5 villages that coalesced during the Middle Ages into Piedimonte d'Alife (*foothills of Alife*). The town's name was changed to Piedimonte Matese in the early 20th century to reflect both the importance of Lake Matese on the high plateau north of the city and the decreasing importance of the once-important provincial capital of Alife to the south.



Note that both pictures show a waterway running through the middle of town.



Two of the city's piazzas are Piazza Roma (*above*) and Piazza Ercole d'Agnese (*right*).

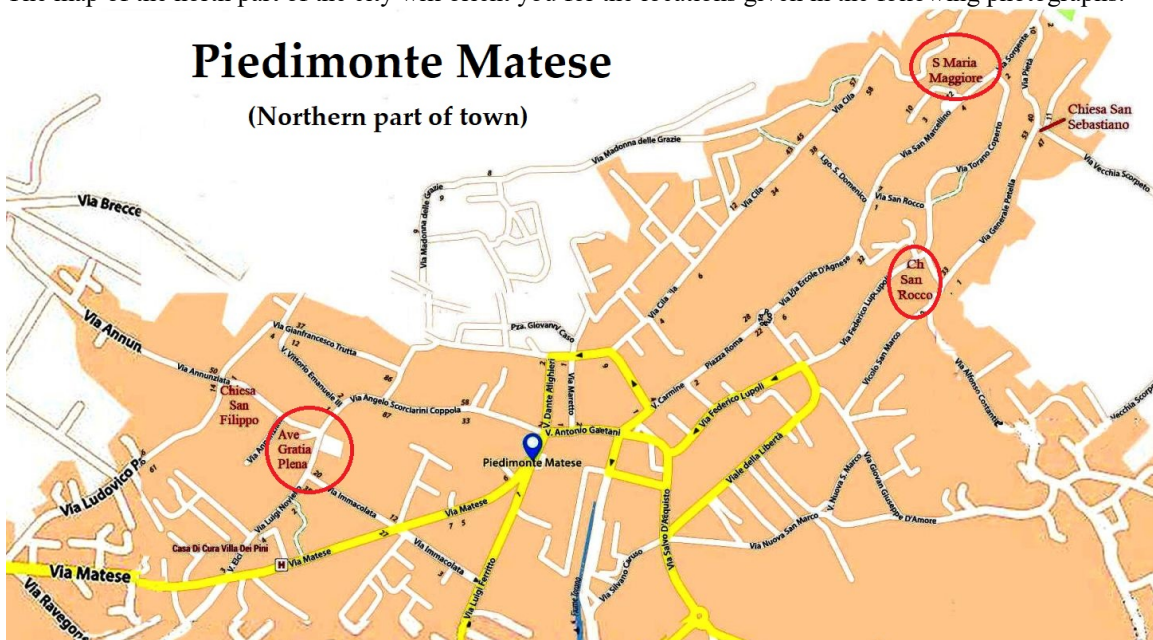




The map of the north part of the city will orient you for the locations given in the following photographs.

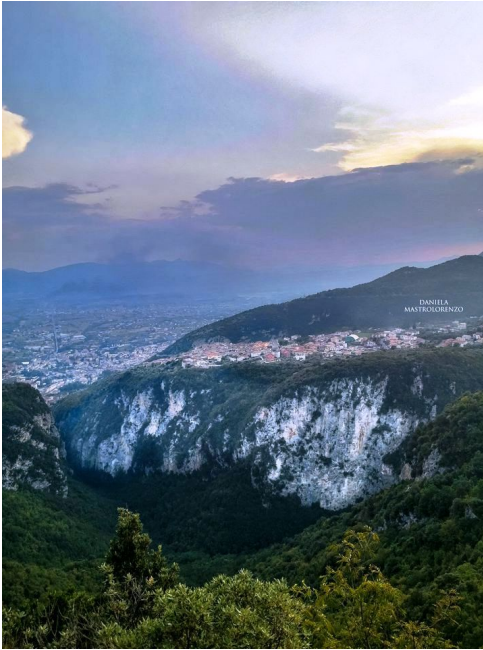
Piedimonte Matese

(Northern part of town)



Originally Piedimonte had an upper and lower town as seen in this photo taken by Danila Mastrolorenzo.

The upper town, clustered around the *new* castle, became the separate village of Castello d'Alife which was renamed Castello Matese when the lower town was renamed. The ruins of the *old* castle in the lower town are visible in the gully seen in the second photo below.



Right taken from one of the bridges over the gully that granted access to the castle.



Photos showing the Torano River as it ran through town. Compare it to the 1995 photo of via Torano below with the river paved over where Albert Matelena's grandparents, Giovanni Maddalena and Maria Rosa d'Ambrosa, lived, at #17 in 1864.



A typical passageway to allow carriages to enter a courtyard of a once elegant house on Piazza Roma. The building was subdivided into smaller units over a century ago.



North of the town is the *lavatorio* for washing laundry



... until at least the 1970s which was when Carmen Martino (2nd from left) told me in 1995 she washed laundry until they got a washing machine for the house in 1974! Diego and Ruggiero are her husband and stepson. John Beitner is on the left.



Door knocker in Piedimonte; using it brings good luck to the resident.

San Gregorio Matese seen from Castello Matese.



Teresia organizing the noisy locals by height!



Building damaged during Allied bombing in 1943 in 1995.

Concetta Maddalena (born 1862, wife of Bernardo Degni) an aunt of Albert Matelena was killed during an allied bombing raid on the city of Alife on 5 October 1943.



23 April 1995 San Gregorio



Allied map of WW II showing the town at the northern end of the *Hitler Line*.





Vico Ponte, Piedimonte Matese.



Palazzo Gaetani, Piedimonte Matese
with ducal crest over door.

Via Sorgente with one of the old city gates to left.
The Sorgente River, once open, now runs under the street.



Via San Nicola



Via San Giovanni



Via Scaladia





Via Piasetta



Carmen on Via Ponte

The Maddalena's were affiliated with the *Basilicata di Santa Maria Maggiore*



The Iacuzzio, d'Ambrosa, and diMuccios were members of *Chiesa di Santa Maria Annunziationi Vallarta* in the *Ave Gratia Plena* diocese (an alternate name for the church)



Il portale di Chiesa Ave Gratia Plena, 17th century



Chiesa di Ave Gratia Plena, Piedimonte Matese

There are 4 Altars on each side, the front altars are on the left and the back on the right. The right Altars



The left side Altars, from front to back:



There are three main front altars in *Ave Gratia Plena*

Left Altar



High Altar



Right Altar



The *Chiesa di San Rocco* with the *Armi Christi*.



Nicola Maddalena died 5 December 1786 and was buried *under the floor* of the *Chiesa di San Rocco*. It is believed he was reinterred in the communal cemetery in the 19th century. Nicola is the 2nd-great-grandfather of Albert Matelena of Trenton, NJ the line being:

Albert > Giuseppe > Giovanni > Pietro > Nicola.

At 6 am on 1 April 1887, Gaetano Sacco died at the *Ospedale di Incurabili* in the San Lorenzo section of Naples. He was a resident of Piedimonte d'Alife and married to Maria Giuseppa diMuccio. Their daughter Maria Concetta married Giovanni Maddalena, moved to the New World, ending up in Trenton, NJ as Joseph and Mary Matelena, the parents of Albert Matelena – all of whom are buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hamilton Township. The *Ospedale* opened in 1521 and remains open today.



Castello Matese





Aversa is a town closer to Naples than the d'Angelo, the della Volpe, and a second Sacco family called home.

The map at left shows, from south to north, Naples, Aversa, and Piedimonte Matese.

The families were affiliated with the *Chiesa di San Audeno* which was destroyed in the *terramoto* (earthquake) of 1934. The ruins still stand in the old town and are, in part, used to stable several cows.

Ruins of the bell tower & the main entrance of the church.



Strada San Audeno with the abandoned church rectory on the left; the church is behind the photographer.

Fillipo Girolamo Sacco & Maria Rosalia d'Angelo lived on Strada San Audeno by 1833. Their son Gaetano moved to Piedimonte d'Alife and married Maria Giuseppa diMuccio; as mentioned, he died in the *Ospedale di Incurabili* in Napoli.



*35 Strada Trinita 1812 & 1831
(now Via Cesare Golia)*



*Strada Seconda Trinita 1821
(now Via Vittorio Veneto)*



Strada San Andrea 1823

Carmine Sacco & Maria Giuseppa Cecala lived on:



6 Strada Santa Agostino 1812

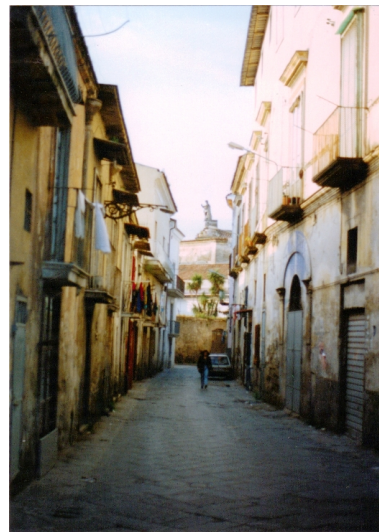


Strada San Paolo 1821

Carmine & Maria are the parents of Filippo Sacco who is mentioned on the previous page.

*Strada San Girolamo
1818*

Francesco Antonio D'Angelo & Margarita Della Volpe are the parents of Maria Rosalia Antonia d'Angelo, the wife of Filippo Sacco.



Carmine & Maria attended *Chiesa di San Nicola* in 1809.



Chiesa di San Nicola, Aversa



Chiesa di San Nicola, Aversa



The baptismal font that was used in their children's baptisms.



By 1821 they had changed to the *Chiesa di San Paolo*.

